REMARKS

i)   Status of the Claims

Applicants hereby amend originally filed claims 1 and 4-8 and present new claims 75-94. Claims 45-74 are cancelled without prejudice in view of Applicant's response to the restriction requirement. Process claims 23-44 are hereby withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. In accordance with MPEP §821.04, Applicants reserve the right to rejoin the withdrawn process claims upon the allowance of one or more of the product claims from which they depend (see 9/19/06 Office Action, page 4). Accordingly, claims 1-22 and 75-94 are pending in the instant application. All of the pending claims are directed to the small interfering RNA (siRNA) of Group I (see below).

Support for the above amendments can be found throughout the application and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

iii)   Elections/Restrictions

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 1-22, drawn to a **small interfering RNA (siRNA)**, classified in class 536, subclass 24/5.

Group II: Claims 23-44, drawn to a **method of treating HIV infection** by administering **siRNAs**, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
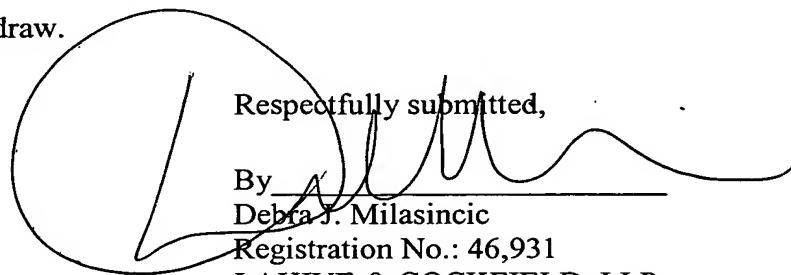
Group III: Claims 45-55, drawn to an **expression vector comprising a siRNA**, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1.

Group IV: Claims 56-74, drawn to **method of treating HIV infection**, by administering an expression **vector**, classifiable in class 435, subclass 455.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect Group I for continued examination and prosecution on the merits.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. UMY-034 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: **November 17, 2006**

Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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